

SIEC Briefing Paper on the Emergency Management Division Application for Frequencies

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Description

The Emergency Management Division is asking the SIEC for permission to obtain a total of twenty frequencies (two per channel) that will be used for statewide interoperability channels. These frequencies will be in the VHF (5 channels) and UHF (5 Channels) bands and used as directed by the SIEC as interoperability channels.

Recommendations to the Committee

It is the recommendation of the SIEC Advisory Work Group, the SIEC Technical and Frequency Management Work Group and staff, that permission be granted to the Emergency Management Division to apply for the requested frequencies.

Status

This application has been vetted through the SIEC Advisory Work Group and the SIEC Technical and Frequency Management Work Group.

Issues

- These additional frequencies are needed for additional statewide interoperability.
- Unless the State/Emergency Management Division applies for these licenses for statewide use, it is likely that they will be taken by other agencies, including local governments, who may wish to keep them for their own business requirements.
- This asset will serve the public good.

Background

As outlined in the *Interim Statewide Public Safety Communications Systems Plan*, part of a mid-term solution would be acquiring additional VHF channel pair that could be used to augment the current interoperability channels that are currently in use. These channels can be used for additional command and control frequencies when the current frequencies are in use.

As anticipated in the plan, it would be likely that in a major incident or disaster the current interoperability channels used for command and control would become dangerously congested. Additionally, should there be either a very large-scale incident or multiple incidents in close proximity, communications would quickly overloaded.